

# *The* OtherPress.

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Issue 15



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# WHO WE ARE

The Other Press has been Douglas College's student newspaper since 1976. Since 1978 we have been an autonomous publication, independent of the student union. We are a registered society under the Society Act of British Columbia, governed by an eight-person board of directors appointed by and from our staff. Our head office is located in the New Westminster campus. The Other Press is published weekly during the fall and winter semesters, and monthly during the summer. We receive our funding from a student levy collected through tuition fees every semester at registration, and from local and national advertising revenue. The Other Press is a member of the Canadian University Press (CUP), a syndicate of student newspapers that includes papers from all across Canada. The Other Press reserves the right to choose what we will publish, and we will not publish material that is hateful, obscene, or condones or promotes illegal activities. Submissions may be edited for clarity and brevity if necessary. All images used are copyright to their respective owners.

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Anyone can get published in The Other Press! Just email your story to the appropriate section editor from the list on the right. Please send your file as an MS Word .doc file.

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The Other Press will pay \$50.00 to any contributor who writes, and successfully has published, a feature article of at least 1,200 words. Also, The Other Press will pay \$50.00 for every five issues a contributor is published in on a per semester basis.

The Other Press holds weekly staff meetings at 6:00pm on Mondays in room 1020 at Douglas College's New Westminster campus. All interested students are welcome!

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# LETTITOR

## Some kind of wonderful

Well folks, here we are again, the start of another fresh-faced calendar year, not to mention the start of yet another semester of higher-learning here at Douglas College. Before you start fretting about your soul-crushing course load, pending graduation, or the end of the world, I wanted to take this opportunity to do a little literary song and dance to inspire you—and specifically *you*—to make this the semester that you decide to become an active participant of your school newspaper. I only plan to do this once this semester, and the start seemed like a good place to start, so bear with me.

First off, I'll say this: what do you have to lose? Time? Pfft. A sense of purpose? Ya right! Seriously though, popping by one of our weekly meetings—every Monday night at 6:00 p.m. in

room 1020 (NW campus)—won't take up more than an hour of your time and you'll be given an action-packed crash course about what we're, well, *about*. Whether you're interested in writing, editing, graphics, photography, or something new and exciting that's going to shake my worldly view to its core—or you just want to meet some new people at the College—The Other Press is a great place to wet your toes.

Secondly, it's a *great* learning experience. Working with our talented team of section editors, not to mention our amazing Assistant Editor Sharon Miki, there's a great opportunity to receive direct constructive feedback, and even help provide feedback to others.

Lastly, though this list goes on for miles in my head, getting involved early is a great way to naturally roll into a paid staff



position down the line. Last semester alone we were able to create new positions for up-and-coming student writers, aspiring public relations practitioners, and advertising professionals—and we hope to be able to create more opportunities, and in turn more higher-quality learning experiences, for students in the future. On top of all of this, though you won't be planning your retirement anytime soon, our contributors get paid for their work.

The bottom line is that with a bit of hard work and a lot of passion there are countless ways

to get involved, learn, and have some fun while you're at it. Can't make the meetings because you're too busy napping between classes or working a part-time job flipping burgers in the evening? No problemo! Contact any one of our section editors with a story idea or follow up with me directly ([editor@theotherpress.ca](mailto:editor@theotherpress.ca)) and we'll get you started on the righteous path of a student journalist.

Later days,  
Cody Klyne  
Editor in chief  
The Other Press

# News.

## Christopher Hitchens dies at 62

By Dylan Hackett, News Editor

British-American polemicist, journalist, and author Christopher Hitchens passed away on December 13, succumbing to the oesophageal cancer he was diagnosed with on his 2010 book tour for his memoir, *Hitch 22*.

Hitchens' unabashed adoration for alcohol and tobacco led to his untimely death at 62 years of age, but his ever-steady output of writing leaves a quantitative legacy. His bibliography includes attacks on the works of Mother Theresa, Bill Clinton, former US Secretary of State for Richard Nixon, Henry Kissinger, and religion in his 2007 bestseller, *god is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything*.

Writing for high-profile publications such as *Vanity Fair*, *The Atlantic*, *The Nation*, and *Slate*, Hitchens' death leaves a gap hard to fill by any columnist. He continued to write up until his last days of life. He covered countless wars and conflicts in his time from the British military occupation of Northern Ireland to the Iraq War, the latter of which he supported adamantly—causing a rift between many of his former friends and colleagues including notable intellectual Noam Chomsky, who Hitchens had known since his formative years as a Marxist in Oxford.

His insatiable appetite for challenge, thrills, and danger led Hitchens to go through with absurd requests from the editor of *Vanity Fair*, including popular US military torture technique, waterboarding. He also had to endure a full-body hair-waxing for the sake of "self-improvement" at the behest of the publication whose contract with Hitchens stated he must write any column at the request of staff including the trying and memorable piece on "Why women aren't funny."

Hitchens had many memorable stints on television as well, guest starring at a university quiz show in the seventies (being beaten by a student of

Douglas partner school, the University of Wales) to memorable (and possibly intoxicated) appearances on *The Daily Show*, *The O'Reilly Factor*, and *The Hour with George Strombopolous*. Many of these appearances have earned millions of views and a second life on YouTube, garnering Hitchens a fan base beyond the world of literature and publication.

Christopher Hitchens decided to donate his body to scientific research and memorial services will be held for him early in this new year.



## TRAINING GROUP REDEVELOPS EASTWARD 2012 services plan on being under one roof

By Dylan Hackett, News Editor

Douglas College's community career development and training education program, The Training Group, will soon be offering its government employment services to residents in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows in a newly-expanded, centralized Employment Services Centre.

Beginning in April of this year, the new Centre will provide a singular location where residents can access services including job search assistance, income assistance, and self-employment assistance. Bowman Employment Services, Buxton Consulting, William Weselowski and Associates, and Immigrant Services Society of BC are the groups currently involved in the coordination of many of The Training Group's services in the Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows region.

The Training Group, founded in 1992, works with many private and public companies to build employment skills as an umbrella over many popular programs such as The CAVE Employment Resource Centre—a group, located near Metrotown, that helps young people ages 15-30 with employment niceties. This service provides young people computers, tax forms, job hunting tips and leads, and career counselling. More information is available online at, [www.douglas.bc.ca/training-community-education.html](http://www.douglas.bc.ca/training-community-education.html).



## Zambia 2012 trip deadline falls soon

Student opportunity to work in Africa this summer

By Dylan Hackett, News Editor

The Global Leadership Program's aid trip to Zambia is nearing its deadline for application, with the final date for submission on January 16.

The program aims to help the children of the south-central African country of Zambia. Students selected for the program will act as interns for various involved non-governmental groups focusing on health, education, physical education, business and economic training, and community development in Zambia. Some of

the students will be placed into internships with Marie Stopes International, Youth Anti-AIDS Network, Camara Africa, YMCA Zambia, Third World Images Project, SOS Children's Village, FINCA Research Fellow, and Trust Community School. Internships are subject to change.

The trip lasts three months, and successful applicants will take a pre-departure course providing background information on Zambian language and culture, international development skills, intercultural effectiveness and communication skills, and

leadership skills. Once arriving in Zambia, students will speak with and receive briefings from many representatives from aid and charity groups.

The program will also give students a crash course on the health and safety issues of international travel.

Students will have the opportunity to embark on a two-day safari to the neighbouring country of Botswana at its Chobe National Park as well as the internationally-renowned tourist destination Victoria Falls—which claim to be the world's largest waterfall.

Basic fees for the program

(including airfare, accommodation, meals, training, and local transportation) are \$3,200, with the additional requirement of each student to fundraise \$600 for their trip prior to departure. Additional expenses, like vaccinations and medications, are not included in the program fees.

Like the 2011 trip, students will blog their experiences online via the Douglife website and share their learning and adventures. To read more of last year's students' experiences, visit [www.douglife.ca/zambia-blog](http://www.douglife.ca/zambia-blog). Application forms can be accessed via the Douglife website.

## Services aim to aid those of the Downtown Eastside

By David Hollinshead, Staff Writer

Several programs have been set up to assist the poor, hungry, and drug addicted people of what has been deemed Canada's poorest neighbourhood, Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

Once a month, Langley resident Jackie Maclean distributes sandwiches to the needy through an aid program she has created. Maclean, a hypnotherapist by profession, has started a volunteer-run sandwich program, handing out 500 sandwiches on the corner of Main and Hastings.

Maclean said that she and the volunteers had to create a system for making sandwiches in large quantities, and after the right amount of practice, are getting pretty good at it. She also claims that the denizens of the down-and-out neighborhood are very appreciative and love the free food that she has been paying for out of her own pocket. She started this volunteer group in the memory of her father, who was an alcoholic, and her brother, who died at the age of 38 from alcohol abuse. She wants to start handing out water and fruit as well as the sandwiches, and is calling out for help in acquiring more funds and volunteers.

Another controversial service targeting residents of the Downtown Eastside is Vancouver Coastal Health's new harm-reduction program—where distribution centres hand out free, unused crack pipes.

"There is a huge stigma against people who use crack, more intense than the stigma for those who use heroin," says Walter Cavallieri of the Canadian Harm Reduction Network, who has hopes that the program will not only help keep drug users safe, but also that the interaction with the social workers will result in some of them trying rehabilitation.

The 8-month trial program distributes full crack pipe kits (including glass pipes, filters, mouthpieces, and cleaning supplies) to users in an effort to reduce the spread of diseases like HIV and hepatitis while also getting hard to reach drug users into interact with health care officials. Prior to the newly-launched program, officials were giving drug addicts clean mouthpieces for crack pipes, but users were still sharing broken and damaged pipes—promoting the spread of disease.

## Atheists deemed untrustworthy: UBC study

Do you trust the atheist sitting next to you?

By Dylan Hackett, News Editor

According to a University of British Columbia study published in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, atheists are the least-trusted minority group, trusted less than other sometimes-demonized minority groups such as Muslims, Jews, and gay men.

The UBC study sampled the opinions of 351 Americans and rated their distrust and disgust levels towards gay men and atheists in relation to their opinion of the population as a whole by measure of the two same feelings. The sample groups contained people of various ethnic backgrounds and religious groups, but the perceived lack of trust permeated through the opinions of most of the religious polled for the study.

"Perhaps atheists' denial of God is seen as more directly antithetical to religious ingroup values than the beliefs and

lifestyles of Muslims and gay men, leading to more distrust of atheists," says the study.

The study confirms lead researcher Will Gervais' notion that there is mass social prejudice against those without faith based on a perceived lack of trustworthiness. He originally thought of the idea for the study after reading a 2007 Gallup poll tracking whether or not Americans would vote for presidents of different social groups and faiths—or lack thereof. This study also demonstrated the likelihood that Americans would be more likely to vote for a homosexual, female, or African-American for President than an atheist. Mormons were at approval levels comparable to the hypothetical atheist candidate.

"Recent polls indicate that atheists are among the least liked people in areas with religious majorities (i.e., in most of the world). The sociofunctional approach to prejudice, combined with a cultural evolutionary theory of religion's effects on cooperation, suggest that anti-atheist prejudice is particularly motivated by distrust," says UBC co-researcher

Ara Norenzayan in the study preface. "In subsequent studies, distrust of atheists generalized even to participants from more liberal, secular populations. A description of a criminally untrustworthy individual was seen as comparably representative of atheists and rapists but not representative of Christians, Muslims, Jewish people, feminists, or homosexuals."

Researchers were also alarmed by the suggestion that rapists hold on levels of perceived trustworthiness in the same range as atheists—Gervais noted that many of those questioned would only trust the latter in lower-responsibility jobs such as waitressing compared to daycare work.

"Although religions continue to exert great influence on most human lives, the numbers of nonreligious people have continually grown,

leading to a great degree of cultural polarization," concludes the article. "In recent years, the topic of atheism has broken into public

**"The study confirms lead researcher Will Gervais' notion that there is mass social prejudice against those without faith based on a perceived lack of trustworthiness."**

consciousness, leading to boisterous debate in popular culture and overshadowing the tremendous potential that the scientific study of atheism—and reactions to atheism—may hold for scientific understanding of the diversity of prejudice and the psychological, cultural, and evolutionary underpinnings of religion."



## The five best films of 2011

By **Angela Espinoza**, Arts Editor

Now before I begin, no, I did not see Terrence Malick's *The Tree of Life*, nor did I see Lars von Trier's *Melancholia*, and on the other end of that spectrum, I didn't see *Harry Potter 7* nor *X-Men: First Class* either. Believe me, I'd have loved to see all those movies and the three dozen more on my list, but I have neither the time, money, nor attention-span for such a lifestyle... *yet*. So until the day that I become a movie-going demigod comes, please enjoy this countdown of the top five best films I did see last year!

### #5. *Super 8* (Dir. J.J. Abrams)

J.J. Abrams has proven time and again that, whether on TV or the big screen, he's got sci-fi down. Somewhere between his thick-rimmed glasses and freakishly large forehead is the mind of a brilliant little boy obsessed with aliens, explosions, and lens flares (they're shiny, I can dig it). If nothing else, *Super 8* was a clear indication that this little boy still lives. The awe and wonder of otherworldly creatures that Abrams and even ourselves saw as children in the films of one Steven Spielberg were

reflected in this adventurous, character-driven love letter to the '80s, and that's why it's our number five.

### #4. *The Muppets* (Dir. James Bobin)

I reviewed *The Muppets* just last month, and not long before that we gave them a feature, so I'm not going to delve into nearly as much detail about the film here. What I will say though is that for the first time in over a decade, we have a legitimate Muppets movie. From the awful puns to the wacky songs, everything about this film just screams Muppets. While the story can get quite silly, it's Kermit that, as usual, gives us a tear-jerking life lesson—not once, but several times. Everything that is the Muppets is still there, and that's all anyone really wanted.

### #3. *Hugo* (Dir. Martin Scorsese)

The first few things that pop into my head when I think about this movie (along with our top two) are words and phrases one should only utter in the throws of ecstasy. To put it simply, *Hugo* is virtually a perfect movie. Scorsese shakes things up once again, only this time it's because he took on the "family movie," and in 3-D of all things.

Of course, not only was he able to create a beautiful, whimsical 1930s Paris, but he was able to immerse the audience within it through what should be mandatory use of 3-D technology. From the first minute that the smoke of the train station pulls you in, it's almost impossible to look away, if not for it's intense cinematography, then for it's compelling story and cast, namely Asa Butterfield as Hugo Cabaret and Sir Ben Kingsley, who portrays filmmaker Georges Méliès.

### #2. *Drive*

(Dir. Nicolas Winding Refn)

As hauntingly beautiful as it is ultraviolent, *Drive* takes things slow, and just like its nameless protagonist (played by Ryan Gosling), always knows just when to speed things up. *Drive* is gritty, you almost feel dirty watching it, but amidst the recurring pink neon and synth-pop soundtrack, you know there's more to what you're seeing. This film is powerful enough that it carries its own aura; one that it wants you to leave with and think about long after it's over.

### #1. *The Artist* (Dir. Michael Hazanavicius)

Like *The Muppets*, I reviewed



this film last month, so I'll be skimming out on a few details. That said, I absolutely adore *The Artist*—it's a French silent film about 1920s Hollywood filmed in black and white... what else do I have to say? *The Artist* does exactly what a film is supposed to do; it throws the audience into an entirely different world, one with a setting and characters that they never want to go away. It's pure, clean, uncut splendor, and you're only hurting yourselves by not seeing it.

So there you have them, if you didn't see these five in theatres, go while you still can, or catch them on DVD before Oscar time rolls around. I can guarantee each of these films will have at least one nomination.

## Spring starts with Winter Arts!

What you need to know about Douglas' Arts events

By **Angela Espinoza**, Arts Editor

Each semester Douglas offers a variety of concerts, plays, art shows, and more for us to enjoy. As a way to give back to the students, most of these events are free, and the few that aren't are reasonably priced. Many of these events also feature your fellow students, showcasing their talents as musicians and actors alike. So, with that said, let us delve into the Winter 2012 Calendar of Arts Events!

The weekly Arts at One concerts are back, opening with a show this Thursday, January 5, entitled *Susana Abreu & Terra, Latin/Jazz*. This show features Vancouver-based Latin musician Susana Abreu and her backing band playing a one-hour set of world music. Other Arts at One concerts lined up include *Piano Concert with Ellen and Robert Silverman* on February 2, *Duo Joncol – Music for Two Guitars* on February 23, and a number of student and faculty showcases to celebrating the various music programs Douglas has to offer.

A somewhat more educational (rather than musical) event lined up is *Composer Tuesday*, on Tuesday January 10. Jacquie Leggatt, head of theory at the Vancouver Academy of Music, has been asked to provide students with some insight on where her career as a Canadian musician has brought her.

The first Amelia Douglas

from April 12 to May 26.

In March, the Vancouver Latin American Film Festival will also be hosting a screening in the Laura C. Muir Theatre (where, on that note, many of these events will be taking place). The screening will allow students to view some of the films in this year's Festival roster; more information to come as the Festival

they create beautiful and elaborate sets for the plays. The first play of the semester is *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)*, a comedic play by Toronto-based playwright Ann-Marie MacDonald, which will be taking place from March 9 to 17. The play to follow is *The Very Ecstasy of Love* (running March 16–24), by Douglas College Theatre Coordinator Allan Lysell, recurring Douglas play director Thrasso Petras, and Charles Mee.

Last and anything but least, the department of Creative Writing will be hosting the *Pearls 31* Book Launch on March 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the Studio Theatre. These book launches often feature students reading select passages and short stories from the updated *Pearls* books, which are lined with the best stories and poems written by Douglas students taking Creative Writing classes.

Now that you've got the low-down on Douglas' arts events, pick up a Calendar of Arts pamphlet (available throughout the school), and take the time to support your fellow students and faculty this winter.

**"Many of these events also feature your fellow students, showcasing their talents as musicians and actors alike."**

Gallery Opening Reception of the semester will also occur next week. This first gala, Thursday, January 12 at 4:30 p.m., will be hosted by Canadian artist Richard Alm, whose art show *Dappled* will be on display from then until February 17. Alm will also be at the Gallery on Friday, January 13 at 10 a.m. for the Artist's Talk, a Q&A session for attendees. Other galleries to be placed on display include *Paintings by Louise Bunn and Mary Bennett* from February 23 to April 6, and *Works by Xin Meng*

gets underway.

What tends to be the most anticipated of arts events though are the annual plays put on by the departments of Theatre and Stagecraft & Event Technology. Theatre directors come in from around Canada to prepare the Douglas students' rigorous Theatre program for what will inevitably be their shining moment on the stage. At the same time, those in the Stagecraft & Event Technology program find their skills tested as





## Livia's Library: *Delirium*



By Livia Turnbull



In the future, love is no longer exciting and new; love is a disease, and everyone wants a cure. Lena Tiddle is one of those people, and she cannot wait to be vaccinated. But, as is custom, she must wait until her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday for the procedure. In the meantime, Lena runs with her best friend Hana, studies at her gender-segregated school, and helps take care of

author was going for. The world of *Delirium* is decently constructed and interesting, but so much time is spent focusing on the world that it takes a long time for the conflict to actually start—and once it does, it's very underwhelming.

The main characters in the story also tend to be clichéd at times, and while the eventual conflict does fit into the main plot of the story, it disappears from time to time. The supporting characters seem to be very stereotypical as well, and I found myself laughing at the

**"The world of *Delirium* is decently constructed and interesting, but so much time is spent focusing on the world that it takes a long time for the conflict to actually start—and once it does, it's very underwhelming."**

her younger cousins. Eventually, the big day arrives, but before Lena can be scheduled for the procedure, she must undergo an evaluation that will determine her future. Understandably nervous, Lena is doomed to failure—that is until a herd of cows, spurred on by an invalid, burst into the evaluation room. Due to the chaos and confusion, Lena's evaluation is rescheduled for another day; in that time, Lena discovers things forbidden, and realizes that the cure is not all it's cracked up to be.

Lauren Oliver's first book, *Before I Fall* (2010), was fantastic—*Delirium*, on the other hand, is not nearly as great. Oliver tries to create a dystopia in *Delirium*, but the book does not quite achieve what the

situation because of them. Despite this, the topic of rebelling against authority was very well handled. Oliver put a lot of detail into what the authority really thought of its citizens, providing our heroine with a very good reason to rebel against them.

Overall, I really wanted to like this book; if *Before I Fall* was any indication, *Delirium* should have been better, but sadly I was mistaken. While I will admit that this is a decent attempt at writing speculative fiction, Oliver should have waited before jumping into a different style. Worst of all, it looks like *Delirium* is going to be part of a trilogy, so we'll most likely have to wait a few years before Oliver starts writing books like *Before I Fall* again.

## Look out! Here come the Spider-men

Does 'Spider-Man: Edge of Time' live up to its predecessor?

By David Hollinshead,  
Staff Writer



Spider-Man has not had great luck when it comes to video games—that is, not until the video game adaptations of the movie series, where for the most part they got it right. After returning to the norm of the lesser games though, a Canadian division of the video game company Activision, called Beenox, developed a Spider-Man game that was a success: *Spider-Man: Shattered Dimensions* (2010). After achieving fair critical praise, Beenox was then given the lead on all Spider-Man related games. In 2011, Beenox released *Spider-Man: Edge of Time* (EoT), which has in turn received mixed reviews.

In EoT, Spider-Man once again shares the lead with another version of himself—as Beenox brings back Spider-Man 2099 to aid his Amazing counterpart. Your antagonist, scientist Walker Sloan, attempts to go back in time and create his company a hundred years before for his own personal gain. This obviously causes huge changes that Miguel O'Hara (Spider-Man 2099) and Peter Parker have to fix. Thus, the Spider-men work in tandem to restore the 2099 timeline.

The gameplay for EoT is very similar to *Shattered Dimensions*, but with only a year between release dates, that was expected. In both games, upgrades can be purchased with XP points gained from defeating enemies and completing challenges. The gameplay can also be repetitive: if you have an objective, you usually find yourself having to do the same thing three times. That's usually acceptable for boss battle strategies, but in regular play you need more diversity.

Both Spider-men have their own personalized abilities. Amazing Spider-Man uses his tried and proven "Spider Sense," which slows everything down and allows him to pulverize enemies one by one if he's feeling overwhelmed. Spider-Man 2099 has a similar ability—only he speeds up so that enemies don't realize where he's gone. The difference between what each Spider-Man does and how they move was researched and implemented into the game to give players a feel for how they both are, as they are still different people with different powers.

Although the combat system can't draw too many complaints, the fights tend to drag on. As soon as you think you're finished with a group of enemies, another just appears out of nowhere, and you can be outnumbered by 50, easily. This often results in well-choreographed fight scenes turning to button mashing brawls.

One thing that the game adaptations of the movies had—that no other Spider-Man game had prior to or since—was the ability to swing through the streets of New York, a touch that made you feel like you were really Spider-Man. Again, neither Beenox game has tried nearly as hard to make swinging from buildings a feature. Yes, in both games, Spider-Man can web-swing, but the maps featured were never big enough to make much use of it. This eliminated the point of swinging with a feature that allows you to "web-zip" from place to place (much like Batman's grappling hook, for those *Arkham* series fans).

Still, despite any hiccups in gameplay, the story in EoT has been heavily praised. It's the first game to include the anti-hero Anti-Venom, and was written by *Spider-Man 2099* co-creator, Peter David. The game also sports several powerful and well-created cinematic scenes that really get you involved. Beenox also brought in a superstar cast for the voice acting, and it definitely pays off. Voice actor Josh Keaton voices the Amazing Spider-Man (Keaton has a history portraying Spider-Man), and Christopher Daniel Barnes, who voiced Spider-Man in *The Animated Series*, plays Spider-Man 2099.

It all wraps up into one not overly great game, but still one of the best Spider-Man games ever released. Since the game itself is fairly short, you might find yourself playing it again just to get your \$70 worth of it—otherwise just borrow it from a friend. It's a fun experience, and is proof enough that Beenox is headed in the right direction with Spider-Man.

Beenox will also be developing *The Amazing Spider-Man* tie-in video game later this year.





## We love our Mother Mother

The Vancouver quintet bring a rocking end to 2011



By Angela Espinoza, Arts Editor

**R**inging in 2012 with a bang, the now based in Vancouver band Mother Mother played three back-to-back shows between December 29 and 30 at the Commodore Ballroom, so if you missed them...what the heck were you thinking?! I managed to catch their last concert of the year, and I'm ecstatic to say they did not disappoint.

Before we get into them though, it'd be rude not to discuss the opening band of the night,

Ryan Dahle. I spent the night unfairly judging them based on my mistaking them for the opening band of the previous show, Good for Grapes. Now, both bands are fine in their own right; in fact, Ryan Dahle was great. The only reason

**"No song in particular really summed up the night though. What gave the show life was the sheer energy both Mother Mother and the crowd kept feeding each other."**

I don't regret my decision to judge them is that—regardless of who was opening that night—neither band fit the tone Mother Mother (MM) carries. Good for Grapes is, to put it simply, way too chill for a MM concert. Ryan Dahle on the other hand sounded like they should be opening for R.E.M. (which actually would make for an awesome show). So, while Ryan Dahle was unable to pump me up that night, I do suggest checking them out; same goes for Good for Grapes.

Now then, onto the big band of the night: Mother Mother. Playing a near 90-minute set, MM began with an epic combination of "Body of Years" and the Pixies' "Gouge Away." From thereon out, the sounds of the night were nothing

less than a healthy balance of songs from all three of the groups' albums. "Baby Don't Dance" and "Simply Simple" from *Eureka* (2011) eventually lead into "Verbatim" from *Touch Up* (2007) and "Sleep Awake" from *O My Heart* (2008), and so on and so forth.

No song in particular really summed up the night though. What gave the show life was the sheer energy both MM and the crowd kept feeding each other. Everyone was having a great time because MM were putting their all out there,

and vice versa. Even during what could be taken as calmer songs, like "Sleep Awake" or "Angry Sea," the excitement pulsing through the room was intense.

Of course, I'd be lying if I said things didn't get a little crazy near the end. The group chose to play a slew of high-energy songs right before a break, including "Problems" from *Eureka*, and "Ghosting" and "Hayloft" from *O My Heart*. After the band returned to the stage, they played a three-song encore, including an extension of the last few moments from the song "Calm Me Down," which highlight the title of *Eureka*. The night ended with another title track, "O My Heart," and finally, not to mention fittingly, "The Stand."

While there were one or two other songs I would've liked to hear, it didn't take away from the night by any means. I don't think anyone there could've asked for a more solid Mother Mother show, and I'm proud to say it became my second-last hazy memory of the year.



## The power of voodoo

We interview Douglas student Chris Osterman about his band Iron Kingdom



By **Angela Espinoza**, Arts Editor

Over the holidays I received a message from, and eventually got to speak with, Chris Osterman, lead singer and guitarist for the Surrey-based metal band Iron Kingdom. Chris, an extremely talented musician—who recently won the Raymond Burr Award for his achievements in the Stagecraft and Event Technology Program here at Douglas College—was eager to tell us all about Iron Kingdom's debut album, *Curse of the Voodoo Queen* (2011), its upcoming release party, and how the band got to this point.

**How did Iron Kingdom get started?**

**Chris Osterman:** I started the band in grade seven, around 2004, and that was with our former guitar player. After about three or four years, my sister [Amanda] joined the band. She told me that she could do better than the drummer we had [at the time], so she learned the drums and did in fact do better than him—now she's our drummer. Our bass player [Leighton Holmes] was also in the band around the time our [ex-]drummer was; [Leighton] quit for two years, found himself again, decided that this is what he really wanted to do, and came back in 2011. Our new [rhythm] guitarist [Kenny Kroecher] joined after we recorded our debut album, *Curse of the Voodoo Queen*.

We used to be called Twisted, then in June 2011 we decided to change our name to Iron Kingdom—[partly] because of

Twisted Sister, and we were having problems because we couldn't get a dot com and stuff like that. We didn't really like the name anyway, so now we're Iron Kingdom.

**How would you describe the band's sound?**

**CO:** Basically, I started playing because I was listening to Deep Purple and Van Halen. I really wanted to play guitar, so right away I was already influenced by the '70s/'80s traditional kind of classic metal and hard rock. We decided to continue with that; it took a few years to really develop our sound, but it just naturally became that. It was always rock.

**Has your education at Douglas helped you progress in any way?**

**CO:** Actually, the Stagecraft program has helped me. There are always a few things, like just funny gear things—we have [a lot] of gear—and I've found out these [tips] in Stagecraft like, 'oh that's what that little knob does, now I get it!' It's kind of funny. [The program's] really helpful because I know how to properly do lighting and stuff now, whereas before I just had gear and was like, 'okay, I think this is how it's going to work, so let's just hope for the best.' It's nice to actually know what you're doing.

**Can you tell us about the new album, *Curse of the Voodoo Queen*?**

**CO:** It's a full-length album: 10 songs, 48-minutes long. I wrote the first song on the album [from] when I was 16 up until now, so [it's all been a process over about] four years. There's a crazy

13-minute-long song, [which] took me two years to write. It's just full of crazy stuff; there are stories on every song. [Leighton] wrote about half the lyrics for it before he first left. We [even hired] an artist from Vancouver named Nicholas Frenette to do the cover—he met me here at Waves, actually.

It's been a ton of work, figuring out distribution to... everything. We had to make our own website, [which Amanda] did all the work for—the barcode was another whole thing. Everything about making an album is tons of work, but it's totally worth it. It's something we're all very proud of. **And you have a release party coming up. What's happening with that?**

**CO:** The release party is [this Saturday] January 7—there are four bands on the bill. All Possible Humans is going to open the show, followed by a band [called] Harlot, then Stryker, and then [us]—we're the headlining act, and we're going to be playing an hour-and-a-half set. It's at Jolly Mac's Pub, in the Guildford area: free admission, free parking. We'll have the CD there for

sale, [along with] T-shirts, posters, stickers—all that kind of stuff. The first band starts at 7:30 [p.m.], and then we're on at 10 [p.m.]. It'll be a fun show,

**Do you have advice for any other up-and-coming musicians?**

**CO:** As long as you're still loving what you're doing, then you know you're doing the right job. The second that it [stops being] fun is when you might want to start thinking, 'something's not quite right here,' and maybe that it's time to move on. It's a long hard ride, but it's worth every minute.

**What: Iron Kingdom CD Release Party**

**Where:** Jolly Mac's Pub (14817 108 Avenue, Surrey)

**When:** January 7 @ 7:30 p.m. (This Saturday!)

**Cost:** FREE!

*If you're an artist of any sort (musician, actor, painter, etc.), feel free to contact us at [arts@theotherpress.ca](mailto:arts@theotherpress.ca). Whether you've got a show coming up or just want to get your name out there, we're eager to hear from you!*



● Back: Kenny Kroecher  
Front: Leighton Holmes, Chris Osterman, Amanda Osterman





## Resolve to drink better

By **Allie Davison**, Staff Writer

**T**he holidays may be over, but winter is just getting started. One of my favourite things to do in the winter is to stay home (I can't stand the cold!), hang out with friends, and have a couple of delicious drinks.

Here are a few favourites that I reserve for the colder months.

### Spiked Hot Chocolate

I've never been a fan of coffee, so for my hot beverages I tend to stick to either tea or hot chocolate. And, as I have yet to find an alcohol that goes well with tea, hot chocolate is the only hot beverage left that I can, well, kick up a notch.

In past years I have made a basic hot chocolate (mug of milk, add powered hot chocolate) and then added a double shot of Peppermint Schnapps. However, this year when I went to purchase

the supplies for my delicious peppermint hot chocolate, I was astounded to find the liquor store was sold out of one of the titular ingredients.

Using my master improvisation skills, I grabbed a bottle of the Butter Ripple Schnapps. The result was delightful. I did take a few tries to find the perfect hot chocolate-to-Schnapps ratio—the Butter Ripple is much sweeter than the Peppermint—but once I figured out that a single shot tasted much better than my usual double, it was smooth sailing (or rather, drinking).

### Holiday Sangria

What makes this sangria scream “holidays”? Well, to be honest it's pretty much just that I've made it a few times this holiday season. Also, I added some cinnamon sticks to the original recipe for a little extra kick. I've made this concoction a few times now, and found sticking

to the recipe below leads to the best results. Alterations are not always good; I've left out the brandy and Triple Sec on separate occasions, and found it's just not as tasty.

1/2 cup brandy  
1/4 cup lemon juice  
1/3 cup frozen lemonade concentrate  
1/3 cup orange juice  
1 (750 ml) bottle dry red wine  
1/2 cup Triple Sec  
1 lemon, sliced into rounds  
1 orange, sliced into rounds  
1 lime, sliced into rounds  
1/4 cup white sugar (optional)  
8 maraschino cherries  
2 cups carbonated water (optional)  
Cinnamon sticks, to taste

Mix all ingredients together in a large jug. Drink and enjoy.

### Glogg

When my Mum first told me she was making “Glogg,” I was skeptical: Glogg doesn't exactly sound appetizing. However, I was hooked from my first sip. Glogg is a bit like sangria (mainly because it's red wine-based) but it's served warm, which makes it great for those chilly nights.

2 (750 ml) bottles red wine  
2 oz dried orange zest  
2 oz cinnamon sticks  
20 whole cardamom seeds  
25 whole cloves  
1 lb blanched almonds  
1 lb raisins  
1 lb sugar cubes  
5 fluid oz brandy

Mix all ingredients into a large pot, and simmer on medium heat until hot, but not boiling. Drink and enjoy.

## New Year's resolution conversion



By **Dominique Leclair**

The new year is upon us and it is time for renewal, reflection, and evaluation: what went right last year, what went wrong, and what went unexpectedly. I've never really been one for making New Year's resolutions. I've just never really understood the point. People resolve to change things just for the sake of resolving to change things because of a day. Lose weight, quit smoking, eat less chocolate, eat more green vegetables, all the things they *think* they're supposed to change about themselves, and more often than not, a year will go by and the

resolution hasn't been achieved.

So I have never made New Year's resolutions. During the year I always find something about my life that I want to change, but because it happens organically I usually am more successful at seeing my goal through. I'm not doing it because of a day, but because I really do want the change.

As it happens, I think just such a moment has occurred, ironically, in time for a potential New Year's resolution. So here I am; an example of never say never, because you never know when you may find yourself doing something unexpected.

Just the other night, I was

with friends. We were talking and drinking some wine, discussing our neighbourhood and the people who live in it. We all live in Kits, and are quite fond of our little neck of the woods, but what we talked about was how unfriendly the people we pass on our streets can be. When

uncomfortable or foreign. And we acknowledged that we are just as guilty of the standoffish behaviour that we criticize the city we love of exhibiting.

It dawned on us then that maybe we should try to take our own advice and heed our own

**"During the year I always find something about my life that I want to change, but because it happens organically I usually am more successful at seeing my goal through. I'm not doing it because of a day, but because I really do want the change."**

you walk down the street no one smiles, no one says hello, everyone avoids eye contact, and it is almost comical how we go out of our way to not acknowledge anyone we pass. In fact, if someone does smile or says hello it is such a shock to the system you're not quite sure what to make of it.

I recently experienced this. About two weeks ago I was walking down my street en route to meet a friend when a guy about my age smiled and said hello as he passed me. I am so unaccustomed to this very normal and polite exchange that I almost didn't collect myself in time to smile and say hello back. Retelling this exchange to my friends, we commented on how other cities we have lived in and visited are so much friendlier and this very simple human interaction is not so

complaints. Start smiling at people we pass in the street and say hello even if we don't know them—especially because we don't know them.

So, I may just be making a New Year's resolution, but hopefully I am also making a lifestyle change. I am going to try and be a part of the change I would love to see in our physically beautiful city, to make it a socially beautiful city as well. I'm going to smile at people more. I will say hi to people I don't already know.

Who knows where this change may lead. It may just surprise me. Only time will tell if this resolution sticks and I make good on my promise to be friendlier to the people I meet in my neighbourhood, but this is one of those times that I do hope a New Year's resolution sticks.

## Adventures in Christmassing

By **Gurneev Panesar**

One festive day, my family and I decided to go Christmas shopping at Metrotown. Little did we know there were some fascinating moments in store. Public transit was our method of transportation, so we all jumped onto the bus to start our little adventure.

About 10 minutes into our bus ride towards our transfer via the SkyTrain, we were all excited until we noticed an awfully-drunk man on the bus who offered a young teenager his bottle of whiskey. Being rejected, he stumbled along to the other passengers on the bus, until finally sitting himself down in front of us. He stared and muttered at my little eight-year-old brother, who was startled, but we all tried to ignore the fellow.

Moving on, he began throwing his now nearly-empty bottle of whiskey next to passengers who took notice to his behavior. After another five minutes, he got up and

tried to walk, but was too wasted to do so, which left me wondering how he got on the bus in the first place.

We finally arrived at our stop and transferred to the SkyTrain to Metrotown. Shortly after, our journey was a success! The mall was packed, with barely any room to breathe. However, in my opinion, shopping is a girl's best friend under any circumstance. With all the sales I picked up everything that caught my eye. My rule of thumb? You haven't really shopped until you've dropped.

Hours of madness passed by and the day's end neared, so we started for home, knackered as could be. Too tired to talk we sat silently on the SkyTrain, and my sister sat pre-occupied with becoming deaf, blasting music through her headphones; she didn't realize our stop was the next. When my dad, mom, brother, and I got off the train we headed down to the bus, assuming that my sister was following behind. Unfortunately, she wasn't.

We got to the bus stop and looked around; she was nowhere to be found! Luckily, moments later my phone rang; my sister was on the other end, telling me she was lost. Her lack of transiting skills and my highly qualified ones deemed me the lucky one to get on the train

to rush and get her. Eventually we made it back to the bus stop in one piece, even before we missed our bus.

All in all, it was a Christmas adventure to remember!





## It will blend, so let's get riDIPulous

By Laurel Borrowman,  
Life & Style Editor

Some think that the best gift that anyone can give, whether you're into gifting or not, is peace on earth. Some think that it's being in the company of family, friends, and loved ones. Some think that the greatest gift of all is love.

All those people are wrong. I received the greatest gift of all for Christmas this year, and it's called a KitchenAid 7-Cup Food Processor. I have never felt more peace on earth, and I believe that I am one step closer to bringing that to all those around me by putting this kitchen appliance to maximal use, and bringing happiness to the world, one dip at a time.

I have a thing for pureeing things; chewing is overrated. Any recipe that involves piles of vegetables, nuts, and beans blended to a smooth, savoury paste, is one of the most delightful foods I can imagine. Pair with a fresh, grainy baguette, a plate of crisp carrot sticks, a thickly sliced, vine-ripened tomato, or some crunchy rye crackers, and you've got yourself a meal. Not enough? Just add a few slices of aged gruyere cheese, and you've got even more substance.

I'm trying to convert you from not eating dips to eating dips, and then from store-bought dips to making your own. Store-bought dips are expensive; they have preservatives, fillers, and ingredients that aren't even words, and the selection peaks at roasted pepper dip, guacamole, hummus,



blender was made by NASA, it will burn out soon.

Furthermore, you are three days into your New Year resolution, which isn't going to last through the weekend, and I bet that eating healthier even just once in a while is on your list. I recommend getting off your butt and making some healthy food for yourself.

Here are my three favourite recipes that are wonderful for myriad reasons. They taste great. They are packed with vegetables, fibres, proteins, and vitamins. They are colourful, and will impress your friends at potlucks and parties. They work on a sandwich, with some chips, with fresh vegetables, or even as a big fat spoonful of straight-up dip. I credit my favourite cookbook, Isa Chandra Moskowitz and Terry Hope Romero's *Veganomicon*, which specializes in food for foodies that

kalamata olives, chopped coarsely  
1/4 cup dry red wine  
1/2 pound (about a half package of the red Sunrise type) soft tofu  
2-4 tbsp water

Pre-heat a saucepan on medium heat, and sauté the oil and onions for five minutes. Add garlic and red pepper flakes, and cook for one more minute. Add the olives and wine, cooking for about five more minutes until wine is reduced. Remove pan from heat to cool to room temperature.

In your blender/food processor, crumble the tofu and blend with enough water for it to get its mix on. Add the olive mixture and puree, stopping a few times to scrape the sides of your mixer off.

Cover, chill in fridge, then bust out your dipping mechanisms. Enjoy.

### Mediterranean-Style Cashew Cucumber Dip

*This is vegan tzatziki, and pairs perfectly with pita, in a wrap, or with veggies. Sometimes, I wish I could just drink it with a straw.*

1 2/3 cups peeled, grated cucumber (about 1 and 1/3 long English cucumber)  
1 cup raw cashews  
2 large cloves garlic  
1 tbsp olive oil  
1 tsp dried oregano  
1/2 tsp salt  
3 tbsp lemon juice  
Pinch ground pepper (white or black)  
1 tbsp chopped fresh dill (I usually do 2 or 3 though; I love dill)  
Kalamatas for garnish

Squeeze grated cucumber over a bowl to remove juice; set juice aside in one bowl, place the juiced

cucumber in another.

In your blending device, combine the cashews, lemon juice, half the grated cucumber, garlic, olive oil, oregano, salt, and pepper. Blend until creamy, scraping the sides of the blender frequently.

Add 1-3 tbsp of the cucumber juice. Add remaining cucumber and dill, and pulse a few times.

Cover, chill in fridge, and enjoy the heck out of it.

### Sun-dried tomato dip

*The zest in this dip is off the charts. If you hate basil, you can leave it out, but I advise strongly against it because basil is delicious.*

2 cups sun-dried tomatoes (dry, not the packed-in-oil type)  
2 cups boiling water  
1/2 cup sliced almonds  
1/2 cup cooked white beans, rinsed (navy or kidney work well)  
2 cloves garlic, coarsely chopped  
1/2 cup packed fresh basil leaves  
1/4 cup olive oil  
2 tbsp lemon juice  
1/2 tsp salt  
A few pinches of ground pepper

Place tomatoes in a bowl and pour the boiling water over them. Cover with a plate and soak for about 15 minutes.

In your blending device, grind the almonds to a powder. Remove tomatoes from water with tongs/slotted spoon (save the water) and add to almonds. Blend.

Add all remaining ingredients and puree. Add up to 1/4 cup of the tomato water to create desired pasty consistency. Add basil leaves. Mix, scraping sides of the blending thingy often.

Chill out for about an hour. Let the dip chill out for about an hour. Eat dip.

**"I have a thing for pureeing things; chewing is overrated."**

or a roasted-pepper-guacamole hummus. Boring. You can do better. You just need the tools and the know-how.

Before the KitchenAid came into my life this Christmas, I used the second-worst blender on the continent, and at least three spatulas (one for each time I'd try to scrape the dip down toward the blade while the blender was on, inevitably hitting the blade and chopping the tip off) to make my dips. It works for a while, but if you want to get serious and stop annihilating all your kitchen utensils, I highly recommend the food processor. Plus, unless your

want to skip the animal products without nixing what good food is all about.

Again, you can make all of these in a blender. Be warned though: once you start, you'll want to join me in Food Processor Heaven. Now, my gift to you: time to get riDIPulous.

### Creamy Kalamata Spread

*This takes olive-love off the charts.*

1 tbsp olive oil  
1/2 cup onion, chopped coarsely  
3 cloves garlic, chopped,  
1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes  
1 cup tightly packed pitted



# Feature.

# Doomsday for Dummies:

*Because it's never too soon to prepare for the **end of the world***

By Sharon Miki

Ah, the New Year. Time to set the putrid remnants of last year's mistakes ablaze with the scorching heat of 12 months of regret and disappointment—and start fresh with new notebooks, organic salad greens, and a promise to finally open that copy of P90X you got in your stocking. Normally the minty optimism of January is refreshing, but, as we ring in the year 2012, one can't help but be reminded that (according to the Mesoamerican Long Count calendar), this is the year we're all doomed.

If the accuracy of ancient Mayan predictions is to be believed, the world will begin its graceful descent into oblivion this year, and the final curtain will fall on December 21. While some might be skeptical (after all, the world in all its glory has survived its share of catastrophes over the years—greed, genocide, *Gigli*), the realists among us are taking the time to get ready. Just like a bikini wax in February, it's never too soon to prepare for the end of the world.

## Step 1: Liquidate Your Assets

First of all, that antique porcelain cat collection isn't going to do you much good when the day of doom is upon us. Now is the time to transfer useless possessions into coin that you can use to fund your lavish last-year lifestyle.

If you don't have a large supply of gold chains and bars to pawn, consider returning all of the gifts you received and hated this holiday season. That new dust buster from Grandma? Take the cash! That not-so-subtle treadmill from mom? Run all the way to the bank, cause that's a month's rent!

On the off chance that no one loves you and you didn't acquire any returnable gifts, consider catburglaring gifts away from people you don't like and then returning them. Don't feel guilty—after all, if your frenemies had just showed some consideration and got you a nice, highly-returnable faux fireplace from Costco for Christmas, none of this would have happened.

## Step 2: Tell Everyone How You Really Feel

December will be here before you know it, so don't waste time



being nice to people you hate. Quit your job (hey, you just liquidated your assets, who needs to work?) and tell your boss in the kindest way possible that you think he's a total idiot and an animatronic chimp could do his job better than him.

## Step 3: Buy Now, Pay Never

If you've always wanted an obscenely-large television, a snakeskin couch, or a Honda CRV, now is the time—but don't waste your dollars on these big ticket items. Buy now, pay later programs allow you to defer payment for costly items for a year or two, at which point massive interest accumulation will try to crush you. But! Buy any (or many) of these things in 2012 and laugh your way to the banks of hell—because that's where we'll all be by the time the bill collectors comes knocking.

## Step 4: Do Your Research

For those of you woefully ignorant of what's maybe possibly about to happen, there's always the Internet. A simple Google search of "2012" should link you to a variety of cult websites with helpful tips. There's also a pre-documentary you can watch, starring John Cusack, available on Netflix.

## Step 5: Take Up an Engorging Hobby

If you've spent years trying to play by the rules, 2012 might be your last chance to do some experimenting. Drugs might "ruin your life," but so, apparently, will a calendar—so why not throw away your Word-of-the-Day and trade it in for a new addiction. Street drugs are fairly *démodé*, but something like Viagra could end your year with a real bang.

## Step 6: Find Religious Solitude (With as Many Religions as Possible)

Religion is a delicate and tricky subject, whether it's end of days or plenty-o-days. In today's modern

world, many of us struggle to find the strength and time to be dedicated parishioners and yet, if the world *does* come to an end it would be nice to have something to fall back on. Because there isn't time to seek spiritual enlightenment through a mission, meditation, or a master's program in religious study, why not take to Wikipedia to learn the basics of as many faiths as possible? Pick your favourite(s) and then make like George Michael and have faith.

## Step 7: Eat A Balanced Diet: Fat, Sodium, and Sugar

Pinpointing a close end-date for the Earth is something like going on an all-inclusive cruise: you can eat whatever you want. Sell your copy of *Atkin's for Dummies* (again, liquidating assets!) and eat whatever you want. Enjoy the taste of real food and forget about counting calories.

Hell, if the many diet books I've read are to be trusted, this type of loving and free relationship with food might actually make you lose weight. And, if not—who cares? You've only got to hang in there until December.

## Step 8: Do Nothing Each Day That Scares You

One of the most annoying self-help mantras / Lululemon marketing slogans is the adage of "do one thing each day that scares you." Please. Now that you can literally count down how many days you have, why would you waste any of them being afraid or even slightly uncomfortable? Instead, try "doing one thing each day that you find really relaxing and entertaining," even if that means you spend a large portion of your last year watching *Teen Mom 2*.

## DOOMSDAY FAILS

Feeling freaked? Fear not. Those zany Mayans aren't the first to predict the end of days; many have cried "doomsday" in the past, but so far no one has got it right. Here are a few examples from our lifetime to put your mind at ease:

### Nostradamus' Prophecies

Noted negative Nancy and writer Michel de Nostredame, commonly known as "Nostradamus," prophesized the end of days way back in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. While interpretations of the exact date of his forecast are widely debated, many waited with baited breath for the end of the world in 1984, 1999, and 2000 to no avail. Nostradamus was probably a crackpot, I mean, we just have to get through his last prophesized date, 2012, and then...oh.

### Y2K, January 1, 2000

Sure, we're all cockily stroking our touch screens now, but back in the '90s many people had full-fledged fears that computers would launch an apocalypse when the date turned from 1999 to 2000. The date changed, the computers didn't explode, and now they've integrated themselves into almost every aspect of our lives so that we are completely dependent on them... oh.

## WHAT TO DO IF IT DOESN'T HAPPEN

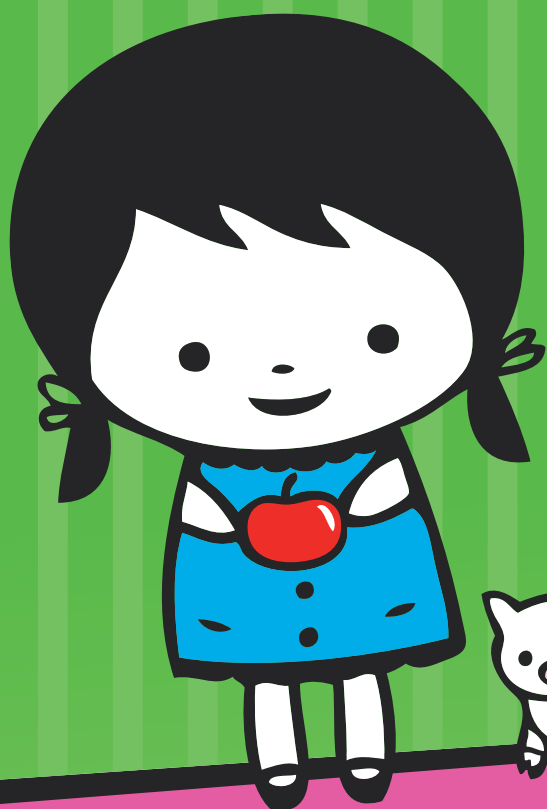
Don't waste too much of your final year worrying, *but...* in the itsy-bitsy, miniscule off chance that you get to December 22, 2012 and nothing's happened but you've sold all your stuff, quit your job, alienated all of your friends and family, accumulated massive retail debt, gained 50 pounds, fostered a massive drug addiction, developed a cholesterol problem, and become addicted to trash TV...you might need a backup plan.

My current strategy is to fake some sort of farm accident and claim temporary, jerk-inducing amnesia—but you need to think of your own plan. No one's going to believe we were *all* on the farm.



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# Opinions.

## OFF CAMPUS CUISINE

### Burger Heaven

All patties go to heaven—or at least the good ones do

By Jacey Gibb, Opinions Editor

*Does cafeteria food fail to cater to your taste buds? Not digging the Dougout? Then grab your finest bib and try to avoid drooling on the person next to you, because we're here to offer salvation for you students looking to humble your hunger, without having to wear your shoes out getting there.*

Restaurants that establish themselves around a specific dish live on the edge. It means they're catering to a smaller customer niche—immediately writing off the market of people who don't care for whatever it is that they're peddling—and it also means they have to be damn good for it to be a speciality. Burgers are tricky because they're one of the most common dishes in the restaurant business, but also because quality usually means pricier. Some people just don't want to spend more than 10 bucks on a piece of meat on a bun when they're perfectly content with the \$1.39



way to describe it. Plants dangling from the ceiling, vintage wall decorations, and a neon sign glaring at you with its “Best Burgers in Town” mission statement. The almost excessive amount of local awards and certificates plastered on the walls were undoubtedly a

spiked milkshakes also caught my eye and I couldn't resist adding a B52 milkshake to my bill.

The music playing in the background reminded me of a 1960s honeymooning soundtrack, as the server returned shortly with my milkshake. I grinned in anticipation, for I knew that within the familiar cup and accompanying metal milkshake canister, there was a cleverly disguised ounce and a half of liquor. The beverage itself was smooth and rich, with the vanilla and liquor living in a balanced harmony. Unfortunately, milkshakes aren't a frequent occurrence in my life and I had forgotten how filling they can be. By the time my burger arrived, accompanied by a mound of potato wedges, my stomach was already complaining about a lack of vacancy. A good sign, in a way, but terrible news in another.

After a momentary breather, I continued on my quest to conquer my meal. Likely the most disappointing part of my plate was the side of wedges. I can't recall a time where I've been let down by deep-fried chunks of potato, but Burger Heaven popped my cherry on that one. They were an off-brown colour and contained only traces of warmth, suggesting that

they had been sitting for a while before making their way to me.

Thankfully the burger swooped in at the last minute and saved the meal from being a write-off. Heaps of mushrooms and gooey melted mozzarella drenched over a juicy patty. While teriyaki isn't the first sauce that comes to my mind when I think burgers, the flavour was a welcome, almost tangy addition. Eating hamburgers in public isn't my strong suit and this behemoth was no exception, slipping and dripping from my fingertips throughout the ordeal. When there was still about half of my burger left, my stomach let loose a groan that convinced me to stop eating before anything internal burst, and I was forced to admit defeat by deliciousness. Not necessarily a loss in my books.

The prices are average for a speciality burger joint (ranging from \$10-14 for most dishes) and the incredibly close proximity to Douglas makes me wonder why I ever opted for cookie cutter Subway sandwiches when I could have been chowing down on benevolent burgers. Just remember to bring your appetite—or be prepared to carry a doggy bag home.

*Burger Heaven is located at 77 10<sup>th</sup> Street in New Westminster.*

version found lurking under the heat lamps at McDonalds. But every now and then I get a hankering for a burger that won't wreck havoc on my digestive tract—with this in mind I found myself at New West's very own Burger Heaven on a lazy Wednesday afternoon.

The place was surprisingly empty for a weekday lunch hour—though I'd hate to see the roughly 16-table restaurant packed. The eerie haunted house-vibe that the building emits is kept exclusively to the outside, in exchange for an interior decor setup that is somewhere between a Louisiana swamp shack and a steakhouse. I know this might be a difficult hybrid to picture, but it's the only

fateful foreshadow of my meal to come.

The service was pleasant enough, though a large takeout order coinciding with my visit had made my server's life noticeably difficult. The menu was exactly what you'd expect from a place with the name Burger Heaven: several pages bursting with burger variations with a section for sandwiches and a few other dishes to satisfy the non-beef and bun admirer. Though I felt unambitious as all hell, craving a simple burger with cheese and bacon, I forced myself to try out a variation I had never seen on a menu before: the teriyaki mozzarella and mushroom burger. The inner menu displaying





## Reasons to get jacked about January

Why the winter blues lose their cool around this time of year



By Eric Wilkins, Staff Writer

January is often seen as a bleak month, with Christmas and New Year's already behind us and the reality of the winter months beginning to settle in. But what people don't realize is that there's more to January than meets the eye!

To kick things off, January is the beginning of the new year. It's a fresh start. A blank canvas. A clean slate. Or any other kind of metaphorical comparison you might choose to whip out. People seem to enter the month with a renewed sense of hope and a true desire to change. Cue the

**"Nothing says January like a 6 p.m. bus ride home in the freezing cold pouring rain."**

New Year's resolutions. Is there really anything quite as magical (or amusing) as watching a good chunk of the world's population come up with a list of often unrealistic self-improvements and then failing to even remember what they were a week later? While the sentiment behind resolutions is noble, in actual practice, they are little more than just that: noble sentiments. But I digress...for the record, I am going to resolve to stay on topic this year.

Next great thing about January? From here on out, the days are getting longer. As lovely as it is to be in complete darkness before the true evening hours have even set in, there's something equally satisfying about getting out from your afternoon classes and not seeing the moon. Of course, the

lengthening of the days actually begins in December after winter solstice, but let's *try* to not get overly technical here.

January is also a great time for sales and shopping. For those who still have any sort of dough left in their pockets, it's a great time to take advantage of some real bargains. Stores are under pressure to dispose of all of their old stock so that the new products can fill the shelves, and this translates into rock-bottom prices for the savvy consumer seeking last year's items.

While I'm sure plenty will disagree, I think the weather around this time is the best.

Nothing says January like a 6 p.m. bus ride home in the freezing cold pouring rain. And, with a little luck, this month might finally bring some of that beloved white fluff down upon us. It may make commuting a hassle at times, but it just doesn't feel like winter without a good snowball fight. Or several.

As for my favourite part of January, it has to be the football games. College bowl games and the start of the NFL playoffs take place in this glorious month, and, football fan or not, these games are blessings. Ever wanted a really easy excuse for a party? Look no further. So grab a choice beverage, your favourite sodium-infused snack, and have the gang over. You don't even have to know who's playing.

## Re-gifting and the rules that regulate it

By Eric Wilkins, Staff Writer

So Aunt Suzie got you an electric pooper-scooper for Christmas. But the thing is: you never pick up after your dog, much less take him on walks—though this likely stems from the fact that you don't actually own a dog. The solution to your problems? *Re-gifting*.

The idea behind this time-tested practice is that everyone ends up with what he/she wants, and no present is put to waste. In practice, however, re-gifting is often used as a tool to dump unwanted items on to another party that is equally as likely to try and do away with the offending object. The logic behind this whole process is often just a ruse, meant to hide the fact that re-gifting is really nothing more than a form of trash disposal. It has always danced upon that thin line known as ethics.

Ethics? Sure. An example for the ladies: Uncle Tom had to think long and hard about what to get you for Christmas; it's not *his* fault that you didn't need a left-handed curling iron. The poor guy not only had to come up with the thought of what to get you, but he then needed to go get it. That meant a trip to the mall, the kryptonite of any self-respecting male. Once there, your good uncle had to locate the object in question (and I can guarantee that such a present cannot be found in a Sport Chek). No, Uncle Tom would've had to have ventured into the inner depths of a store a good deal less masculine. After having located the present, Uncle Tom had to *pay* for it. That's right. Cold, hard cash. This guy has gone out and worked long hours to put some dough together, and now he's spending it on a thoughtful gift. After all the time and money invested, can you really just throw away/re-gift his present?

Of course you can! While it's a

wonderful thing to be considerate of others' feelings, let's face it: some gifts are just useless. With this in mind, I've always gone about the process with three simple guidelines in my head:

First off is **the time rule**. The embarrassing situation during which your gifter asks to see what he/she got you after you have given it away, should never arise. One must hold on to the gift for a decent period of time. A month or two is appropriate for a frequent visitor, and a few weeks are generally sufficient otherwise. Apart from avoiding the above-mentioned scenario, this rule is in place to help maintain the facade of having been thankful for the gift; if you wish to genuinely think about it, then that's even better!

Next is **the in-house rule**. Re-gifting a present that has been given to you by someone you live with is always a dangerous practice. The close proximity to him/her means that the question of where the gift is can be asked at any moment. If spinning unbelievable tales of woe is not your thing, then avoid re-gifting in-house gifts like the plague.

My final rule for re-gifting is in regards to **gift cards**. If you're going to re-gift a gift card that you have no use for, then *please* do so with a small additional present. Re-gifting a gift card by itself is as good as wandering over to someone, taking some money out of their pocket, and then handing it to someone else—while still taking the credit and calling it *your* gift. Just don't do it, mmkay?

While it's unlikely that every gift that came into your possession over the holidays is a fan favourite, that doesn't mean it has to go to waste. Pay it, and the gift, forward and hand off that offensively ugly sweater to a friend or co-worker. Who knows. They might actually end up *enjoying* it.



## A resolution revolution

Why New Year's resolutions are in need of some rethinking

By Natalie Serafini

It's January—the start of a brand new year. Time to emerge from our Christmas comas and accept that the glitter has been Jingle Bell Rock-ed off of our festive gear. As we return to reality, I want to take this opportunity to share one of the many holiday traditions that irritate me—and unfortunately, as common at Christmas time as flashing lights on the family tree, it's also one of the more widely-celebrated ones. This holiday season, like those that came before, I found myself thinking about the lack of logic behind the staple of the new year: resolutions.

My reasons for disliking this start-of-year bent for self-improvement have nothing to do with a personal lack of commitment; it's not that I've been stung too many times by my inability to keep a resolution. I simply can't accept this tradition noticing, as I often do, its many flaws.

Frequently, resolutions are based on results rather than

process. Instead of focusing on developing a lifestyle, people focus on one specific endpoint. While concentrating on results can centre plans so they aren't broad and ambiguous, goal-setting like this can turn destructive: you might set a grand total goal that doesn't help you to stay on track or develop a good lifestyle change. For example, planning to lose 25 pounds in a year could be a reasonable target for you, but what does it mean in terms of long-term life changes? What does it mean for the next year of your life? If you want to do something like lose weight, consider concentrating on a manageable weekly objective to help you stay on track, as opposed to an end-of-year Holy Grail of a goal.

Even I—a dyed-in-the-wool procrastinator—think New Year's resolutions are ridiculous excuses to put off self-improvement. Why put off until the New Year what you can accomplish now? Why wait until you're even more set in your ways to change them? You might say, "A new year is a new beginning. It's a fresh start." To that I say, why

not think of every week as a fresh start? Or even every day? If you eat too many chocolates one day, just make the decision (or the *resolution*, if you will) to do better tomorrow. If you want to stop smoking, start exercising, or start living life to the fullest, why not start today? You're only wasting time getting into bad habits and leading a life you don't want to lead. You're only allowing yourself to be afraid of change. I know you're entirely wonderful, and I know you know you're entirely wonderful too, but nobody is perfect; even you, dear reader, and myself could stand for some improvement. Don't wait until next year to reach your most awesome potential. Start today. Resolve to improve yourself today!

It's really destructive to get into a pattern of putting off what you have to do and looking down on your accomplishments because they aren't good enough (trust me: I'm a procrastinator *and* a perfectionist). Unfortunately, New Year's resolutions tend to encourage this way of thinking. If you genuinely want to improve yourself, the best



way to do it is continually. We're returning to reality: the Starbucks holiday lattes will slowly disappear, as will the Christmas lights on every house. It means accepting that the glitter is gone from our plans to improve astronomically in the next year. My plan is to evaluate my life on a monthly basis and see if I like where I'm going. In terms of bettering myself, it seems the only realistic thing to do.

## School Wars: Episode I—The phantom entrance requirements

Things you didn't know you needed to know about SFU's Elementary Teaching program



By Jacey Gibb, Opinions Editor

*A column that combines life's most important things: your education, Star Wars, and bad wordplay.*

If I had a nickel for every time someone recited to me the phrase "Those who can't do, teach," I'd probably have enough money to skip the whole career part of my life and just retire already. It wasn't until coming to college that I realized just how many other people were pursuing the same career path as me, and it's somewhat frightening. I'm good with kids and know I'll make a great teacher, but it's a lot of my potential future co-workers that I'm worried about. Some of them are painfully passive aggressive, while others have even admitted that they hate working with kids. The thought of these wombats teaching children makes me look back on all of the awful teachers I've had and wonder "who the hell left these

people in charge of the future?"

Luckily, it seems like the standards for teachers have gone up since I was an overall-clad youth, because just looking at Simon Fraser's website for the Faculty of Education gives my head the spins. Douglas College did a fine job informing me of what academic requirements were needed to transfer into the Professional Development Program (PDP) for Elementary Teachers, but what they didn't mention were all the little side-quests one should complete in addition to the 2.5 or higher GPA. Because most academic advisors are about as useful as a DVD copy of *Season of the Witch*, I thought I'd share with you folks some of the useful tips I've come across. Keep in mind though that this is primarily for those looking to teach at the elementary level.

How much work experience you've had with children is one of the main things the program looks for. It makes sense that people should dabble in their profession before making it their life's work, and this is especially true for teaching. Almost half of my friends who initially decided to become teachers after high school have since changed their minds, mostly because they were put in situations

with kids and found them to be unbearable, monstrous brats. Hey, it's not for everyone right?

One of the easiest ways to bulk up the working-with-children portion of your resumé is to sign up with Big Brothers Big Sisters and be paired up with a buddy. The program requires you to commit at least a year of your time, but the experience will look great on your resumé. Also, if you're lucky, you can use their guardian as one of the two references you'll need when applying, since one of them must be a non-academic reference that has seen you working with children.

As well, experience working in a classroom is strongly encouraged for candidates trying to get into an elementary teaching program. Your best bet for this is to get in touch with local schools (preferably in the same age range that you want to teach) and look for any classroom volunteering opportunities.

Another category taken into account that no one warned me about is Academic Preparation. This refers to any courses that you've taken that help ensure that you'll be the best damn educator you can be. This includes courses in the Fine Arts, Kinesiology, and Education. While none of these courses are *required* for the program, they do

have an impact on your score and can affect whether you're accepted or not. Credentials aside, they're also helpful in preparing you for the things you'll face in the classroom. I took an Intro to Educational Psychology course last semester and it's been undoubtedly the most useful course I've taken at Douglas. You learn about effective teaching methods, the different types of students you'll encounter, how to deal with disruptive behaviour, and everything else related to teaching. What's great is most of the information provided isn't merely based on someone's opinion, but is actually supported by studies and plenty of research. I didn't even bother selling the textbook back at the end of the semester because I know it will come in handy in the future.

It's irritating how many people are simply going into teaching just because they don't know what else to do. Teachers have a lasting impact on their students' lives and it requires a great deal of dedication. If you're truly serious about going into education, start loading up on relevant courses, get involved with youth in the community, and learn to love kids for who they are. Your future students will thank you for it.



# Sports.

## Hardly a Grind

New snowshoeing at Grouse provides a winter sport alternative

By Matthew Visser

This Christmas break, I took advantage of the incredibly dry early December weather and went to Grouse Mountain to enjoy a cool winter pastime: snowshoeing at the newly-created Snowshoe Grind.

The Snowshoe Grind (SSG) is a new attraction that spans a 5.1-kilometre trail across the mountain and meets up with other snowshoeing trails—which sadly were closed during my visit. The climb up the SSG is not as grueling as its summertime counterpart, the Grouse Grind, and the view is even better. It takes a good 40

minutes to an hour to snowshoe

to the top, where you will find multiple trails that circle the peak. At the top of the SSG, you get a view of snow-capped mountains, dipping mountain ranges of tall deep-green trees, and a view of not only Vancouver and Downtown, but of the whole Lower Mainland.

Snowshoeing is a great outdoor activity that is a nice alternative winter sport for students because it is relatively inexpensive. In terms of equipment, a good set of snowshoes costs between \$90-\$150 and will last you up to 10 years. Choice snowshoes come from brands like MSR, Outdoor Research, The North Face, and MEC. Those who don't own their own shoes can rent a set at the

the sun is out you can even break a sweat. Instead, consider sporting an outfit comprised of some combination of the following: a toque, a good pair of base-layer pants, a long sleeve shirt, shorts with pockets (to hold a snack or your toque when you sweat), a good pair of gloves, two layers of socks, a mid-layer T-shirt, and a shell or windbreaker to face peak winds that can really chill the body down. I don't recommend wearing running shoes because snow gets in the ankles and chills the feet down fast. Instead, wear a good pair of winter boots: nothing too big or intense, just something waterproof. Sunglasses are also a good bet.

And, no matter what you're wearing, don't forget to bring your camera: the views are amazing.



## Check out your Vancouver Giants!



By Josh Martin, Sports Editor

I recently had a chance to take in a Western Hockey League game between our very own Vancouver Giants and the Kamloops Blazers in a heated battle at the Pacific Coliseum at the good old PNE. Oh yes... nothing like a White Spot burger, a beer, and some fast, young hockey to ease the pain of the lull that develops in the few post-Christmas days leading up to the hustle and bustle of New Year's Eve.

**"You could literally see the players' sweat dripping down their faces and you could take in (up close) all of the interaction between the players, coaches, and coaching staff—a pretty good deal if you ask me."**

The last time I made it out to a Giants game was five or six years ago—so being at this particular game was a treat. I was able to get a sixth-row ticket right behind the opposition's bench on the night of for only \$25. Yes, just \$25. You could literally see the players' sweat dripping down their faces and you could take in (up close) all of the interaction between the players, coaches, and coaching staff—a pretty good deal if you ask me.

The game that I attended was a battle between the top two teams in the B.C. Division, with the Kamloops Blazers leading the pack with 51 points along with a 24-9-1-2 record in 36 games

and the Giants following right behind at 48 points and a 23-12-1-1 record in 37 games. It was an action-packed hit which featured a respectable crowd of just over 7,000 people, great goaltending, fast-paced hockey, three goals apiece, an overtime frame, and a shootout—which the Giants were successful in, ending the game in a 4-3 victory. All for only \$25.

Now I know Canucks games are on a totally different level in an overwhelming, exciting, and emotional sense of style...but who can really afford the \$100-

\$200 price of tickets? Certainly not me, along with many struggling-to-even-afford-to-live students that are going to school. It's just not that realistic (\*unless you somehow win tickets, get invited by a friend, or someone's dad has access to a box because of business and there just happens to be leftover room for you).

All of these reasons are exactly why—if you are looking for a live-action hockey fix—you should hit up a Giants game. You, and your wallet, will definitely not regret it.

My seat: row six, right behind the players bench.



## Canucks Corner

### Top 10 Moments in 2011

By Josh Martin, Sports Editor

With a new year already begun, it's nice to take a look back on all of the memories that made the previous year so special. With that said, let's reflect on the top 10 Canucks moments in 2011.

#### #10. Canucks get their 50<sup>th</sup> win of the season: March 27, 2011

For the first time in franchise history, the Vancouver Canucks captured their 50<sup>th</sup> win in a single season against the Columbus Blue Jackets in a 4-1 victory. The Canucks went on to win four more games in the remainder of the regular season, setting their club record to 54 wins on the year. Can they do it again this year?

#### #9. Back-to-back Art Ross Trophy Winners, April 9, 2011

With Henrik Sedin having already won the 2009-10 Art Ross Trophy for leading the league in regular season scoring (29-83-112), it was up to brother Daniel to prove that he could do the same—and boy, oh boy did he ever. Daniel Sedin picked up two points against the Calgary Flames to clinch the title as the top point scorer in the NHL for 2010-11 (41-63-104), marking the first time in NHL history where twin brothers on the same team won consecutive Art Ross trophies. Something tells me that this particular event is one that will be hard to come by for many years to come.

#### #8. William M. Jennings Trophy for goaltending tandem

Backup goaltender Cory Schneider made his NHL season-debut last year, and he did not disappoint. Teaming up with starter Roberto Luongo, the tandem combined for only 180 goals scored against, which earned them the William M. Jennings Trophy for being the goaltending tandem to have the fewest goals scored against. Schneider played the minimum amount of games (25) to qualify for the award at the insistence of Luongo—who demanded that Schneider get the extra playing time so they could share the trophy.

#### #7. Kesler gets the Frank J. Selke Trophy, June 22, 2011

After being nominated two years in a row, Ryan Kesler took home the Selke award for



the forward who demonstrates the most skill in the defensive components of the game. The real kicker is that he finished the year off with a career-high of 41 goals in 82 games and still managed to dominate in the defensive aspects of the game. It was a real break-out year for the forward who showed flashes of superstar form, especially in the playoffs against the Nashville Predators where no one could seem to stop him.

#### #6. Vancouver cleans up, June 16, 2011

One day after the Canucks lost to the Boston Bruins in the Stanley Cup Finals—when all hell broke loose and our beautiful city was literally getting destroyed in front of our very eyes by our own people—the true and faithful fans came back down to the core of Vancouver and cleaned up the huge mess. It was a memorable moment that brought our city closer together after such a disastrous day.

#### #5. Manny Malhotra's Return, June 4, 2011

Faceoff specialist Manny Malhotra underwent a tragic eye injury last March after being struck in the eye by a deflected puck. After several procedures and surgeries, he was told that

his season was over and that his career was in jeopardy depending on how well he recovered... Well, 29 games later Malhotra defied all odds and was back and ready to rock in game two of the Stanley Cup Finals. The crowd chanted "MANNY! MANNY!" upon his return. I still get chills thinking about it.

#### #4. Clinching the President's Trophy, March 31, 2011

The Canucks clinched the President's trophy for the first time in franchise history in a game against the Los Angeles Kings, marking them as the number one team overall in the NHL. They finished with a remarkable 54-19-9 record and 117 points.

#### #3. Up two games to none, June 4, 2011

What could be better than being up two games to none in the Stanley Cup Finals? Well, actually winning the Stanley Cup, for one. Alex Burrows scored with just 11 seconds into the first overtime frame against the Bruins to bring the series back to Boston with a commanding 2-0 series lead. Unfortunately it wasn't quite enough to win the Cup, but let's not take that away from this particular moment where every Canucks fan can recall was one

helluva time.

#### #2. Stanley Cup Finals! May 24, 2011

"The Vancouver Canucks are going to the Stanley Cup Finals!" Who would of thought Kevin Bieksa's bizarre slapshot blast in double overtime of game five of the Western Conference Finals was all it would take to beat the San Jose Sharks. For the first time in 17 years, the Canucks were moving on to the Finals.

#### #1. Third time's the charm, April 26, 2011

The number one most memorable moment of 2011 would have to be when the Vancouver Canucks finally beat the Chicago Blackhawks in the first round of the playoffs in a Game 7 overtime thriller. After their hopes and dreams were shattered by the Blackhawks for the previous two consecutive years, it was finally time that we returned the favour. With Jonathan Toews tying it up late in the third period and then Burrows firing a slapshot past the goaltender in overtime... oh man, *what a game*. It was by far the best hockey that I have experienced in my life. An instant classic.



date

**JAN. 9 & 10**

► **FINE ART**

place

**MAIN CONCOURSE**

**FANTASY** ◀

**WILDLIFE** ◀

hours

**9 - 7**

► **GIANT-SIZED POSTERS**

► **MUSIC**

last day

**9-5**

**FRAMES & HANGERS** ◀

► **FILM**

► **PHOTOGRAPHY**

► **1000s OF POSTERS**

**THE**  
**IMAGINUS**  
**POSTER**  
**SALE**



# Humour.

## All four roommates 'the messy one'



By **Liam Britten**, Humour Editor

**D**espite individual assurances to all that it is someone else who is leaving dirty dishes around, not emptying the garbage and leaving messes in a myriad of ways, all four roommates in a Port Coquitlam house are in fact "the messy one."

In non-marital co-habitation, the messy one is the role assumed by the housemate who contributes most to the mess while contributing the least to its removal. In this house, populated by four 20-something men, all four are the messy ones; the roles of clean one, annoying one, and loud one remain unfilled.

"I guess you could say I'm the loud one," said an in-denial Spencer McDermot, resident of the house. "You know, I like to party, I like my music. But Ian, oh man, is that guy filthy. He's always leaving his clothes around! It's embarrassing."

McDermot, at press time, is responsible for over 35 per cent of cheese-encrusted plates and 60 per cent of all mucus-filled tissues at the house.

When reached for comment by *The Other Press*, Ian Van Der Meer reported that he was the clean one and that it was new addition Lionel Hamilton who was the messy one.

Added Van Der Meer, who was the culprit of last week's mysterious carpet staining: "And Spencer's a douche. Seriously, f\*\*k that guy."

Hamilton, for his part, claimed it was John Singh who was the messy one. He is responsible for upwards of 80 per cent of strong, offensive odours within the house. Singh was unavailable for comment, as he had just spilled bong water all over the couch.

Sociologists believe that when housemates are unable to accept and delegate responsibility effectively, it can lead to a breakdown of social order. Chaos may ensue, and feelings and relationships irreparably damaged.

"Actually, I don't give two shits about their feelings," said Athabasca University psychologist Bob Brandes. "What concerns me more are those slob's living conditions. By the sounds of things, those degenerates are at risk of tuberculosis by now."



### Capricorn

(12/22-1/19)

Have you recently lost touch with someone you cared about? Well, start stalking them over Facebook! If that doesn't work, try Googling their name and see what comes up! Maybe you'll find their phone number where you can phone them 24 hours a day!

### Aquarius

(1/20-2/18)

Don't underestimate the importance of details. Always be sure to prove you work!

### Pisces

(2/19-3/20)

Don't be too worried by what happened today. After all, no one saw you blow up that building.

### Aries

(3/21-4/19)

Rise up to the defence of Laserdiscs! Sure, they might've been a little big, but they made great pizza holders! What's going to hold our pizzas now? Not a flimsy cardboard box!

### Taurus

(4/20-5/20)

Somebody needs a hug! But I don't know who that is. Guess you'll have to start hugging every person you meet until you find the right one.

### Gemini

(5/21-6/21)

Today you'll find that you're unable to stop talking really fast and there's no time to stop to breathe because the planets say so and you'll most likely die if you stop but whatever you do don't say Candleja-

### Cancer

(6/22-7/22)

Your communication skills are enhanced today. No, I don't know exactly how that happened. Anyways, you may feel a compulsion to document every minute of your life on Facebook

and—Hey! I don't give horrible advice! Delete that status right now!

### Leo

(7/23-8/22)

You need to save money in some way. Maybe if you didn't spend so much money on college maybe you would have more money to save. So go ahead, drop out of college and—What? My readership will disappear if they take my advice? Well, on second thought, disregard what I said about dropping out of college. You're doing yourself—and my wallet—a world of good.

### Virgo

(8/23-9/22)

Now is the time to tackle projects that you've put off for so long. Remember when you wanted to be a superhero when you were eight? Now's your chance to start working towards that goal! Hope you can still fit into that old Halloween costume.

### Libra

(9/23-10/22)

Listen to your inner voice today. It's telling you that maybe stuffing a heart beneath the floorboards of your house isn't such a great idea.

### Scorpio

(10/23-11/21)

People are valuable today. That's because they've all been turned into gold. By the way, is your last name Midas? You might be wanted soon.

### Sagittarius

(11/22-12/21)

Don't ask for any special treatment today. The planets have decreed that living in a rat-infested apartment with a lazy roommate builds character.

(With files from Livia Turnbull)



## ICBC announces new reflective decals for special motorists

'L' and 'N' to be joined by other warnings of incompetence behind the wheel

By Liam Britten, Humour Editor

In an effort to better improve driver awareness and make the roads safer, the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia is requiring more types of drivers to display reflective decals on the backs of their cars to warn others of their fitness for driving.

Currently, ICBC only issues two types of reflective decals: the "L" decal for learners behind the wheel, and the "N" for newly-licensed drivers. However, this will soon change.

"The first decal we are introducing is the 'B' decal, which indicates 'buzzed'" said ICBC media contact Mark Jan Vrem. "This decal tells other road users that the driver in question has had a few, but isn't too bad. You know, maybe he went to the bar, was supposed to be designated driver, had one, one led to another, you know how it goes. But they aren't shitfaced, that's for sure—shitfaced drivers are required to display the 'S' decal."

Vrem says that by better informing drivers of road hazards, they can prevent accidents. He also mentions that vehicle decals have

been in use in the province off and on since the '50s with great success.

"Of course, in those days, only women were obligated to display a decal, the 'D,' which stood for 'dizzy dame.' The Charter of Rights and Freedoms doesn't allow us to use that decal anymore."

In addition to the "B" and "S" decals, ICBC will be introducing decals such as the "H" for "Horrible parallel parker," the "O" for "Old as all hell, will travel 20 below the speed limit," the "T" which indicates "Two children in a long coat pretending to be an adult," and the "R" which indicates "Right blinker left on by accident, I don't actually plan on turning right for about eight blocks."

"We're especially proud of the 'V' decal, which will inform all motorists that the person in front of them is from Victoria," Vrem told *The Other Press*. "Hopefully, this will allow people to be aware of possibly hazardous, certainly annoying behaviour from these drivers. They will turn or change lanes without signalling, they'll go slow for no reason, they'll be high, but it's our hope that the 'V' decal will take the surprise factor out of driving with these morons."



## Polar bears outraged over Coca-Cola colour change

By Allie Davison, Staff Writer

Polar bears just aren't what they used to be: in numbers anyways. In an effort to reach out and support the declining breed of bears, popular beverage company Coca-Cola has changed the look of their regular Coke cans from classic red, to white with a few of the majestic beasts printed on the sides.

Although the company had the best intentions—not only are they making a donation of \$2 million to the needy bears, but they will match consumer donations up to another \$1 million—the leader of the North Pole Polar Bear clan, Ice Cold, has been publicly speaking negatively about the change. "It's not that we're not grateful to Coca-Cola for their kind donation, it's just that the can colour change has been causing problems in our society. Polar bears everywhere have been sent out to bring some Diet Coke back to their dens, and are returning with Classic Coke, in a white can. As we are a calorie-conscious breed, you can only imagine the mayhem this has caused."

Cold went on to say that some short-tempered bears had even started fights over the issue. "Cubs running away, mates clawing at each other; it's chaos, just chaos."

Thankfully, Coca-Cola has seen the error of their ways and stopped production of the white Classic Coke cans. Although they will not be recalling the cans, once they are all sold, only the red can that everyone knows, recognizes, and loves will be seen on shelves. Smooth move, Coke.



## Home



By **Allie Davison**, Staff Writer

Zebras and giraffes,  
two of my favourite animals,  
have stripes/spots that are  
like finger prints; the zebra prints  
I have in my living room show  
this. The patterns differ for each one.

This morning,  
as I tried to sleep,  
pulling the blankets over my head, to  
hide from the bright sun, a duck  
yelled at me, its voice shouting through  
the closed window. Quack. Quack.

As I opened the door  
to my apartment, my first  
thought was: *I've been  
robbed!* Clothes thrown around  
the room, books scattered. But  
then I realized: I was just messy.

We brought you flowers,  
and chocolate and treats,  
and a little stuffed  
turtle with a top hat;  
little things, letters and soda,  
to make you feel at home.

They filled my penguin  
thermos with tequila,  
last weekend when I was  
away, and forgot to rinse  
it. Now, whenever I take a sip  
of apple juice, it hits me: Mexico.

We decorated him,  
the turquoise puffin,  
with green sunglasses and a floral  
scarf; sitting on my kitchen table  
he is so hip happening. He's living  
*the* life, while I can only dream.

I want to make margaritas,  
the strawberry ones preferably,  
in the big fish bowl glasses.  
We will garnish them with little  
paper umbrellas, plastic swords,  
and adorable frogs.

There was a cat,  
named Tom, at my old house.  
Sometimes, people would confuse him  
with my brother Tom:  
hilarity ensued.

## North Korean state media reports Kim Jong-Il rising from grave, turning into bird-like deity



By **Liam Britten**, Humour Editor

**T**he Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), the state-run media arm of the ruling Workers' Party of North Korea, has reported that the deceased former leader of the nation, Kim Jong-Il, has risen from the dead to become a god.

A KCNA news report read, "The Dear Leader, whom the onlookers thought must surely be dead, indeed began a journey on the Heavenly Way by leaping forth from his coffin and riding a great rainbow. On that sunny day in Pyongyang, he told the onlookers, 'Fear not,

comrades! I will travel for 7,777 days, and then return to you all the bounties of Heaven, which will flow into the great bosom of the prosperous, non-wheat deprived socialist utopia of North Korea. It will bring about unity on the peninsula under the flag of the red star. It will smash the decadent west.' His words were in the typical fashion of Dear Leader, full of broadmindedness and true human love. He then summoned a great flock of doves, and, whilst singing his truthful, valiant song 'In the Embrace of My Motherland,' he flew into the stars."

**"His words were in the typical fashion of Dear Leader, full of broadmindedness and true human love. He then summoned a great flock of doves, and, whilst singing his truthful, valiant song 'In the Embrace of My Motherland,' he flew into the stars."**

The KCNA report also said that before departing, Dear Leader instilled in the people values such as "nobility, virtue, and not rebelling against rightful successor Kim Jong-Un during any power struggles which may ensue" before flying away on magic wings.

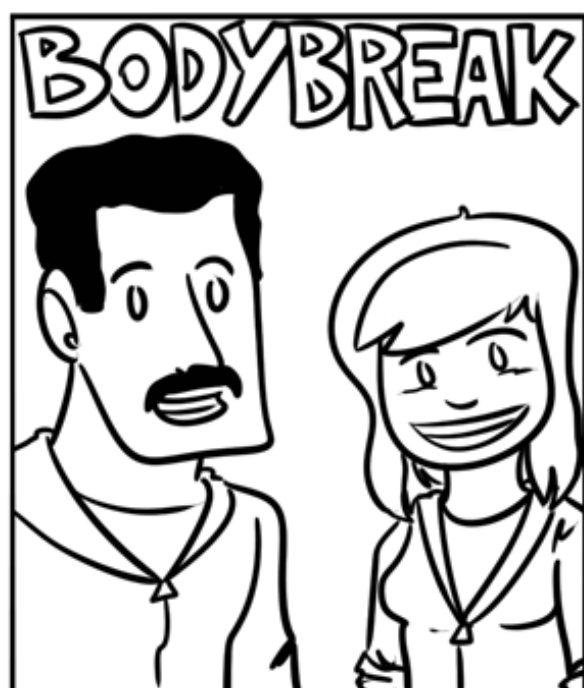
The KCNA has a long history of journalistic integrity. For example, the agency won the Kim Jong-Il Journalism Excellence Award for coverage of North Korea's record wheat crop in 1997 which did not result in a famine at all. As well, it won the Kim Il-Sung Journalism

Excellence Award in 1953 for its efforts covering North Korea's victory over the west in the Korean War.

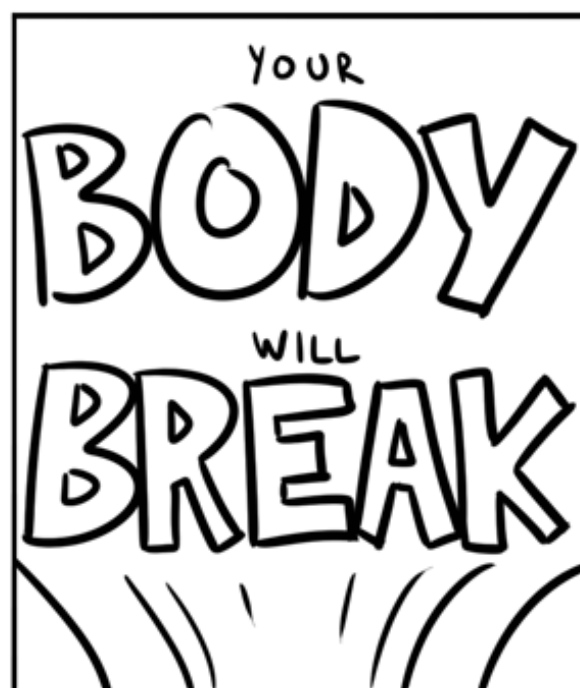
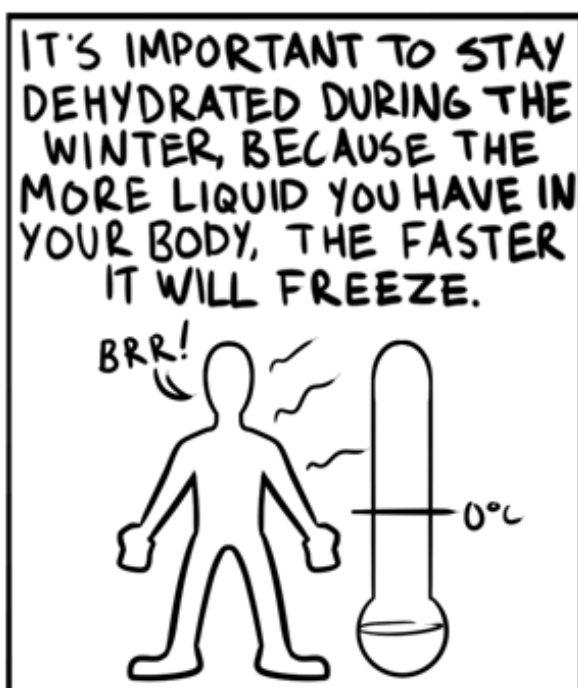
However, despite the agency's sterling record, some are calling the reports of the resurrection of Kim Jong-Il "suspicious."

"I personally feel that not all the details are coming to light about this," said Kim Yeon-su, a North Korea expert at Korea National Defense University in South Korea. "This story may seem on the up-and-up, but how could this have happened on a sunny day when all weather reports showed it should have been snowing that day? Something doesn't add up."



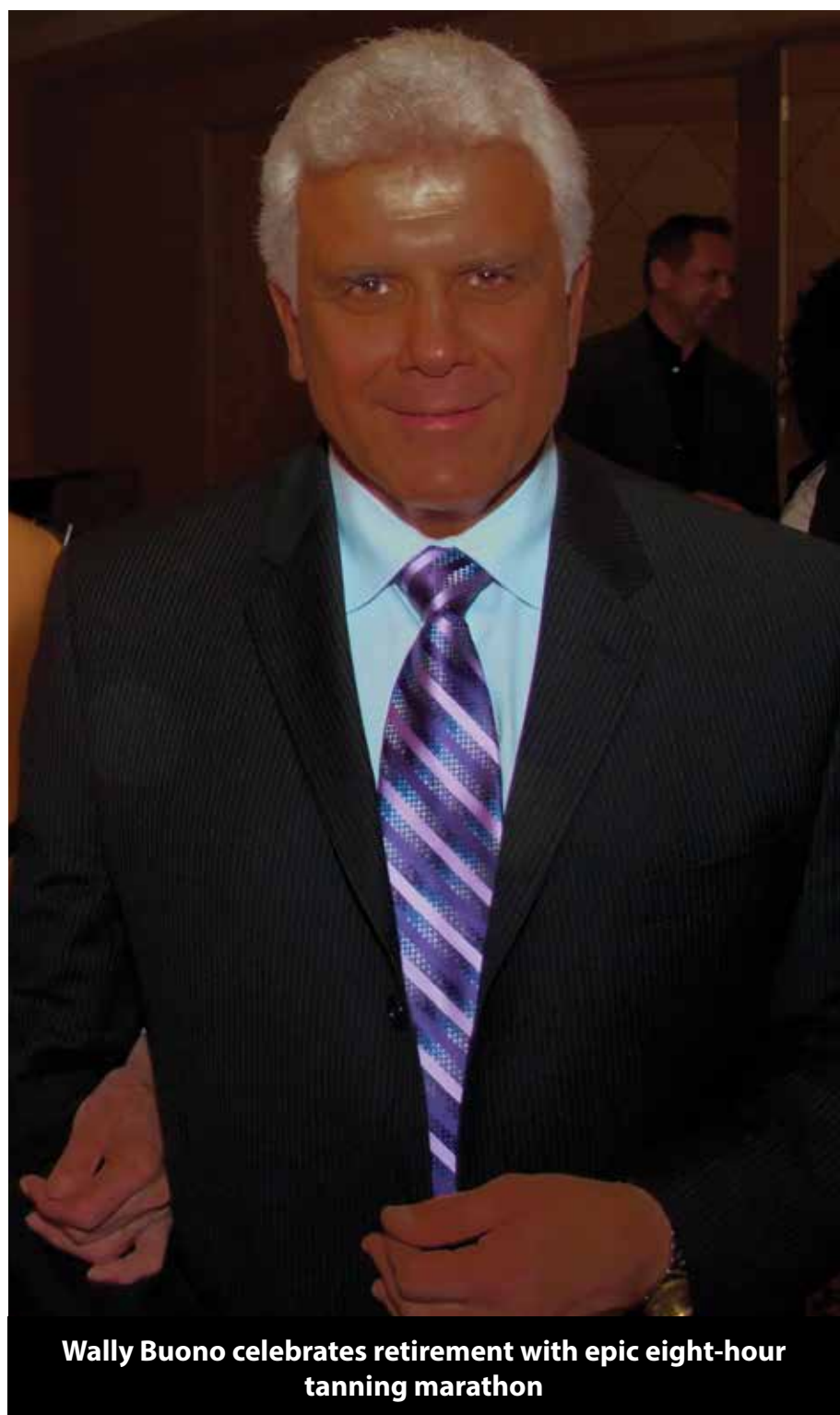


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Continued on pg.25



Wally Buono celebrates retirement with epic eight-hour tanning marathon



Pizza Pop explodes; 34 killed



Economists: derivative market, cash flow, blah blah blah, you're all screwed

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